

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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For Immediate Release:
May 15, 2006
Janet Napolitano,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office
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ADWR fines two Tucson golf courses for conservation violations

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther announced today that two Tucson area golf courses settled violations of ADWR's mandatory conservation requirements between 2002 and 2005.

Investigation found that the golf facilities - the Stone Canyon Club and the Golf Club at Vistoso - exceeded the annual groundwater use limits established in ADWR's Third Management Plan for the Tucson Active Management Area.

In reaching the settlement, ADWR agreed to waive half of the \$173,025 in civil penalties accrued between 2002-2005. Efforts to improve course efficiency and the facilities' recent switch from groundwater to reclaimed effluent played a big part in the agency's decision to reduce the penalties, Guenther said.

To identify conservation potential, the facilities' management must submit the results of a professional irrigation audit to ADWR by the end of 2006. Owners of Stone Canyon and Vistoso may choose to reduce the amount of the fine further if they replenish the aquifer through artificial recharge. No reductions will be allowed for any violations that may occur in 2006 or 2007.

The settlement between ADWR and the Stone Canyon Club and the Golf Club at Vistoso comes at a time when golf in Arizona is under increasing public scrutiny regarding water use. "Overall the golf industry has done a good job of saving water," said Guenther, "but our turf conservation program is tough, and these fines show how serious Arizona's efforts are."

For additional information, contact:

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